

Eccles Centre Visiting Fellowships 2023 – Notes to Applicants

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Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be over 18 years old on 1 April 2023
- Not have been awarded any kind of research award from the Eccles Centre for American Studies (including Eccles Centre Visiting Fellowship or a Writer's Award) at any point after 1 May 2016

[General Terms and Conditions of the Eccles Centre Visiting Fellowship Programme 2023](#)

Fellowships may be taken up at any point after 1 April 2023 and must be completed by 30 September 2024.

Fellows are entitled to the following stipends:

- Researchers based within the M25:	£1,000
- Researchers based in the UK outside the M25	£2,000
- Researchers based in Europe*	£2,500
- Researchers based in the rest of the world	£3,000

The Eccles Centre is committed to promising best practice in matters of equality and diversity.

No extra funding will be available. Candidates must ensure that they have sufficient funds to cover their own needs and the needs of any dependants during their stay. Award holders from outside the UK are individually responsible for fulfilling any regulatory requirements to enter the UK.

The Eccles Centre is unable to arrange travel or organise accommodation for award holders. It cannot arrange for or guarantee any necessary travel documentation to the UK (such as visas), but it will, where possible and appropriate, provide written documentation to support award holders' visa applications.

*Europe here is taken to include Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia (formerly Macedonia), Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Vatican City (Holy See)

The Eccles Centre's 2022-24 Research Themes

There are four research themes that we are particularly excited for researchers to explore through our collections.

Researchers are strongly encouraged to apply with projects that align with one of these themes. If you need to use the British Library's Americas collections for an exciting and original project that falls outside the scope of these themes you may apply as an 'open submission'.

You can find out more about the research themes below, and in this [blog](#).

Sounds and music of the Americas

Music is one of the most dynamic and revealing ways in which the Indigenous, African, European and Asian cultures have expressed their collision in the Americas. Sounds and soundscapes also offer exciting sources and subjects for exploring American histories and modernities. This theme offers academic and creative researchers the opportunity to explore sound and music as both subjects and sources in American studies using the outstanding collections of the British Library. These include important holdings of manuscript and printed music as well as a vast sound archive of recordings which ranges across spoken word and performance, wildlife and nature, oral histories and ethnographic recordings, and all forms of popular, classical, folk and Indigenous music.

Travellers, warriors, exiles and emigrants – Americans beyond the Americas

The narrative of the Americas as space of immigration has been amply (and often misleadingly) explored for a very long time. However, the British Library is particularly well placed to tell a different other story – a story about the formative impact on Canadian, US, Caribbean and Latin American identities and cultures of travel beyond America. This theme invites academic and creative researchers to consider how peoples' experience of leaving the lands and islands of the Americas produced (or subverted) categories of personhood, created novel forms of community, and forged vitally important cultural moments. Whether it's the making of 'Caribbean' identities in the wake of immigration to postwar Britain; the role of wars in Europe in forging a fledgling 'Canadian' identity; the place of the exile in modern Latin American politics; or the importance of expat life in Europe for the development of US modernism – crucial moments in the making of the Americas have occurred in other parts of the world, and this theme allows academic and creative researchers to tell these stories through the collections of the British Library.

American environments

The changing landscapes and waterways of the Americas, and the transformations wrought in its plant and animal life, are central to understanding the histories and futures of the region, and of planet Earth more generally. This theme invites scholars working across the humanities and the social sciences, artists working across creative practices, and activists, journalists and policy makers to consider questions of ecology and the environment in American studies through the collections of the British Library. Human-animal relations; plant-life and American foodways; changing landscape use; resource scarcity, extraction, conflict and justice; the development and character of environmental politics; and representations and experiences of the climate crisis, are just some of the questions that might be explored through this theme, through both academic and creative approaches.

Religions and spiritualities in the Americas

Spiritual experiences, confessional identities and religious conflict have not only been central to the American story, but continue to shape the politics and culture of the region in profound ways. Survival and transformation in Indigenous American religious and spiritual traditions; African and Asian religious presences in American slave societies; evangelical Protestant politics in the USA and South America; the growth and impact of Latin American liberation theology; American Islams; and secularization and atheism in American cultures are among the themes that we invite academics and creative researchers to explore through the collections of the British Library.

The Visiting Fellowship Application Form

All applications must be made using the [online form](#). Word or PDF applications will not be considered.

The application invites you to write three statements, which are:

- Give an overview of the research question(s) you wish to pursue at the British Library, describing how this work contributes to your wider intellectual or creative projects and interests, and how it connects to the theme to which you are applying. (You do not need to address this final point if you are submitting a 'wildcard' application.) 400 words.
- Describe why the British Library is necessary for your research, giving an indication of the kinds of collection materials you would like to use. You are strongly encouraged to explore the British Library catalogues, collection guides and Eccles Centre bibliographies before completing this section. 300 words.
- Outline the intended or desired outcomes from your research (e.g. publications, exhibitions, performances etc.) at the British Library. Please also indicate how you might engage non-specialist audiences not already familiar with the kind of work that you do, how other Readers in the British Library might learn from your research and experience, or how you might inspire someone to visit the British Library through your work. 300 words.

The deadline for submission of applications is 17.00 GMT on Friday 16 December 2022. Applications submitted after this time will not be considered.

Applicants will be informed of the decision by mid-March, and Fellowships will be tenable from 1 April 2023.

If you wish to save your progress and come back to the form later, please click on the 'CAPTCHA' button at the bottom of the form. You will then be given the opportunity to save your progress by creating a user profile. To complete the form, please click on [this link](#).

If you wish to submit the application, please click on the 'CAPTCHA' button at the bottom of the form, then click on 'SUBMIT'.

After you submit your application, you will have the opportunity to save a copy of your application by pressing the 'PRINT RECEIPT' button.

If you have any technical difficulties please email eccles-centre@bl.uk.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Monitoring

All applicants are invited to submit a [separate Equality, Diversity and Inclusion form](#) that will be stored separately from your main application form, and which will be completely anonymous with no identifying information about you.

The Eccles Centre is committed to promoting equality, and we aim to achieve diversity in the range of people we involve in our Fellowship programme.

We currently have very imperfect qualitative or quantitative insights about who is applying for our Fellowships in terms of race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, or disabilities. We would therefore be extremely grateful if you would fill in this form so we can start to build a picture of who we are reaching, who we're not reaching, and how we might do better to build a truly diverse cohort of Fellows.

You do not have to answer these questions, however, or you may choose to answer some and leave others unanswered if you would prefer. Any contribution will be very gratefully received.

The information you provide is completely anonymous and will not be stored with any identifying information about you. All details are held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.